MOTION

The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) defines "kennels" in three separate sections. One is the definition in Section 12.03 of the Planning and Zoning Code (Zoning Code) which specifically refers to kennels for dogs. Another is a definition of "cat kennels" in Section 53.00 of the Code. Still another is a separate definition of "dog kennels" in Section 53.00 of the Code.

The Zoning Code's dog kennel definition is not identically worded, but is roughly the same as that in Section 53.00. Both definitions explicitly refer to the number and age of dogs as determinants for what constitutes a kennel. Other sections of the Zoning Code regulate where kennels may be located. Recent interpretations of these regulations have clearly indicated that the term "kennel" is understood as referring to both cat and dog kennels even though only dog kennels are referred to in Section 12.03.

At this time, the kennel definition also serves as the mechanism for determining the number of dogs which may be kept in a private household, a mechanism which almost no other jurisdiction in Los Angeles County employs for that purpose. Cats are similarly regulated by the cat kennel definition in Section 53.00.

Because kennels are prohibited in residential areas, it can be argued that their relationship to how many companion animals should be allowed in a household is circumstantial at best. In order to facilitate that the household limit on dogs not be a function of how commercial or boarding kennels are defined and where they may be located, in place of a prior proposal to delete the definition per Council File 17-1237, the definition of "Kennel" in Section 12.03 should be changed to focus on kennels used by for-profit or non-profit entities for commercial or business purposes.

Importantly, taking this step requires that specific limits for the number of dogs and cats in households must be added to Section 53 to complement the contemplated change in how kennels are defined in Section 12.03 and ensure continuity of regulation. It also requires that the definitions of dog and cat kennels in Section 53.00 of the LAMC also be amended to match any revised definition in Section 12.03 as well as any steps necessary to ensure that the definition of "pet shop" in Section 53.00 matches that in Section 12.03.

The Board of Animal Services Commissioners should undertake public discussions and make recommendations to the City Council as to how to proceed regarding the household pet limits. These discussion must take into full account an ongoing California Environmental Quality Act process regarding a "Citywide Cat Program" that must be

completed before any consideration of changing the current limit of three cats per household could be undertaken.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council initiate an ordinance to amend the definition of "kennel" in Section 12.03 of the Los Angeles Planning and Zoning Code to specify its application only to kennels maintained for business purposes, with the exception of pet shops (which are separately defined in Section 12.03), and that the definition also be used to resolve any differences in language that exist with the dog and cat kennel definitions in Section 53.00, including adding "cats" if doing so is deemed appropriate and/or useful; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services and the Board of Animal Services Commissioners to immediately undertake a public process to make recommendations to the City Council for the initiation of an ordinance adding specific per household dog and cat limits to Section 53, amending the dog and cat kennel definitions in Section 53.00 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to resolve any differences in language with the proposed revision of the kennel definition in Section 12.03, and to ensure that the definition of pet shops in Section 53.00 matches that in Section 12.03, with the intention of having these amendments be considered by the City Council in conjunction with any proposed amendment of the kennel definition in Section 12.03 undertaken as a function of this motion.

PRESENTED BY: _____

PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: _____